

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EA-07 L-01 ACDA-10

INR-05 CIAE-00 IGA-01 OMB-01 /048 R

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PM - T. STERN

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DOD - MR. ABRAMOWITZ

----- 066848

P 221615Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

CNO

CINCPACFLT

S E C R E T STATE 225252

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: EXCESS VESSELS LOCATED IN JAPAN

REF: (A) MANILA 12803

(B) STATE 200194

1. WE HAVE PUT A HOLD ON THE FINAL SALE OF THE TWO DES
TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA COMPANY AND A FREEZE HAS BEEN
PLACED ON THE OTHER EXCESS VESSELS NOW IN JAPAN WHILE WE
SORT OUT THIS MATTER.

2. AS YOU INDICATED, THE DEFENSE DISPOSAL PROPERTY SYSTEM
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(DDPS) WAS ROUTINELY PROCESSING THE DES FOR SALE AND BIDS

WERE OPENED ON AUGUST 19 AFTER REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PHILIPPINES HAD MADE AN INSPECTION TRIP TO JAPAN IN EARLY AUGUST. SINCE NO BIDS WERE SUBMITTED BY THE PHILIPPINES ON THE TWO DES AND SINCE WASHINGTON THINKING WAS THAT THE OFFER OF THE SHIPS RECOVERED FROM VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA WOULD PLACATE THE GOP APPETITE; THE DDPS PROCEDURE WAS NEVER INTERRUPTED.

3. ALTHOUGH WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT SHIPS OF SUCH POOR QUALITY CAN BE CONSIDERED BLUE CHIPS IN BASE NEGOTIATIONS, WE ARE EXPLORING METHODS BY WHICH THESE TWO VESSELS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GOP HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT USG LIABILITY IN THIS CASE IF WE WERE TO TERMINATE THE SALE TO THE CHINESE FIRM AND SELL TO THE GOP. WE WILL ADVISE YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE IF THE WAY IS CLEAR TO SELL THE DES TO THE GOP.

4. FOR TAIPEI; REQUEST YOUR ASSESSMENT OF ANY REPUBLIC OF CHINA REACTION TO POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF THE SALE AND RESALE TO THE PHILIPPINES. FYI: WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT TAIWAN REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT AT THE OPENING OF THE BIDS IS AWARE THAT HE WAS HIGHEST BIDDER. END FYI.

5. FOR TOKYO: WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE TWO DES MAY HAVE BEEN STRIPPED BY THE JAPANESE BEFORE THE VESSELS WERE RETURNED TO U.S. CUSTODY. BY SEPTTEL, NAVY HAS REQUESTED USDAO TOKYO TO VERIFY STATUS/CONDITION OF THE DES AND REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

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